## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE (UNAMSIL)

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## PRESS RELEASE

## <u>ACTING SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE COMMISSIONS</u> MAGISTRATE COURT IN MOYAMBA, SOUTHERN SIERRA LEONE

Freetown – The Acting Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) Mr. Alan Doss on Wednesday, 22 October 2003, handed-over to Sierra Leonean local authorities the Magistrate court rehabilitated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Moyamba, some 100 kilometers east of Freetown.

While court infrastructures and logistics support are essential, "an effective dispensation of justice and upholding the rule of law very much depends on the dedication and commitment on the part of those who are entrusted with the administration of justice," said Mr. Alan Doss.



Sierra Leone's Director of Prisons laying out the foundations of Moyamba's new prison. Chief Justice A. Timbo is standing left.

Mr. Doss, with the Director of Prisons, also laid the foundations of Moyamba's new prison, also funded by UNDP. "The justice system, including the courts, police and the prisons should redouble efforts to win the confidence and trust of the people," urged the Ag. SRSG. Concurring, Sierra Leone Chief Justice, Dr. Abdulai Timbo, emphasised the importance of transparent and swift justice for the consolidation of peace, and warned both the Resident Magistrate recently appointed to Moyamba, and the attendance that "corruption would not be tolerated". The Chief Justice commended the event as a prime example of the integrated support provided by the United Nations to the strengthening of the rule of law and its various components, the police, the judiciary and the prison system.

UNDP, in collaboration with the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA), has rehabilitated Magistrate courts in Lunsar, Port Loko, Pujehun, and Mattru Jong. Work is ongoing in Kailahun, Kabala and Bo to ensure that each of Sierra Leone's twelve districts has a Magistrate court by the end of 2003. Similarly, UNDP is funding the rehabilitation or construction of prisons in Port Loko, Magburaka and Kailahun.

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